

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for converting a list of data items into an abbreviated list
2 for transmission through a wireless network, comprising:
3 alphabetizing the list of data items based on at least a first letter in
4 each data item;
5 separating the data list into a plurality of sets; and
6 generating a first abbreviated list having a maximum number of
7 entries, each entry representing at least one set.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 generating at least a second abbreviated list based on the members
3 of at least one of the entries of the first abbreviated list wherein each entry
4 in the second abbreviated list represents at least one set represented by
5 the at least one entry of the first abbreviated list.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein each set represents the data items
2 beginning with at least a same first letter.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of alphabetizing comprises
2 alphabetizing the list based on at least said first letter and a second letter.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 further including the step of:

2 mapping each entry of said abbreviated list to a control input in a
3 display device.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of mapping comprises
2 mapping each entry of said list to a keypad on a telephone.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said method includes the steps of:
2 determining whether the list has a size greater than a predetermined
3 maximum size; and
4 if said data list is greater than said predetermined maximum size,
5 alphabetizing based on at least a next sequential letter in each said data
6 item.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein said steps are repeated.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said maximum number of entries is
2 defined by:
3 determining a predetermined maximum number of entries;
4 dividing the number of entries in the first abbreviated list by said
5 predetermined maximum; and
6 generating the list such that each entry in the first abbreviated list
7 has a number of entries equal to the number of entries in the list divided by
8 said maximum with a remainder of no more than one.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein said first abbreviated list has a
2 number of entries greater than the number of lines in a display of a device,
3 and the abbreviated list is divided into at least two pages for display on the
4 device.

1 11. A method for presenting a list of alpha-character data, comprising:
2 alphabetizing the list of alpha-character data into at least one set of
3 items containing items having at least the same first character;
4 determining whether said alphabetized list exceeds a maximum list
5 length, and if so, grouping multiple sets together based on said maximum
6 list length; and
7 mapping ones of said sets to an input controller.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:
2 displaying at least one set responsive to a selection of an input
3 controller for said set.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein said step of mapping comprises
2 mapping multiple ones of said sets to one input controller.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein said method further comprises
2 displaying a list of items beginning with each of said same first characters

3 corresponding to said multiple ones of said sets mapped to said one input
4 controller.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein said displaying list of items
2 comprises said first of said same first letters if the items in the set
3 corresponding to each said characters exceeds said maximum list length.

1 16. The method of claim 14 wherein said displaying said list of items
2 comprises displaying the items in said multiple ones of said sets mapped
3 to said one input controller if said items total a number less than said
4 maximum list length.

1 17. The method of claim 11 wherein said step of alphabetizing
2 comprises alphabetizing the list based on at least said first letter and a
3 second letter.

1 18. The method of claim 11 wherein said step of mapping comprises
2 mapping each entry on said list to a keypad on a telephone.

1 19. The method of claim 11 wherein said method includes the steps of:
2 determining whether the list has a size greater than the
3 predetermined maximum size; and
4 if said list is greater than said predetermined maximum size,

5 alphabetizing based on at least a next sequential letter in each said data
6 item.

1 20. The method of claim 11 wherein said list of alpha-character data has
2 a number of entries greater than the number of lines in a display of a
3 device, and the alpha-character data list is divided into at least two pages
4 for display on the device.

1 21. A method for converting a list of data, each entry in said list having
2 at least one alpha-numeric character, comprising:

3 sorting said list of data based on a first of said alpha-numeric
4 characters in each said entry in said list of data;

5 grouping entries into a plurality of sets, each set comprising entries
6 in said list of data having at least a common first character;

7 generating an abbreviated list of said common first characters; and

8 linking each entry in said abbreviated list to the corresponding set
9 of entries having said at least said common first character.

1 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

2 generating at least a second abbreviated list based on the members
3 of the set wherein each entry in the second abbreviated list is a first letter
4 in said abbreviated list and represents a second set of all entries in the
5 data list beginning with one letter.

1 23. The method of claim 21 wherein said step of alphabetizing
2 comprises alphabetizing the list based on at least said first letter each next
3 sequential letter.

1 24. The method of claim 21 further including the step of:
2 mapping each entry of said abbreviated list to at least one input
3 controller.

1 25. The method of claim 24 wherein said method further comprises
2 displaying a list of items beginning with each of said same first characters
3 corresponding to said multiple ones of said sets mapped to said one input
4 controller.

1 26. The method of claim 25 wherein said displaying list of items
2 comprises said first of said same first letters if the items in the set
3 corresponding to each said characters exceeds said maximum list length.

1 27. The method of claim 24 wherein said step of mapping comprises
2 mapping each entry on said list to a keypad on a telephone.

1 28. The method of claim 21 wherein said method includes the steps of:
2 determining whether the list has a size greater than a predetermined

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